

Mitchell J. Landrieu
MAYOR

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

C. Elliott Perkins
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mid City/Parkview Historic District Study Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: October 5, 2015

Location: 615 N. Olympia Street

Called to order: 6:05

Adjourned: 7:15

Members present: Rachel Lyons, Emily Shaya, Rebecca Maisel, Jennifer Farwell, Frank Donze, Quinn Breland,

Members absent: Jim Cripps

Staff Present: C. Elliott Perkins, Eleanor Burke, Melissa Quigley

- A. Roll Call
- B. Introductions
- C. Overview of HDLC jurisdiction levels & process

Eleanor Burke gave a summary of the HDLC mission, historic districts, office structure and review process. In particular, she described the nature of partial control districts under the jurisdiction of the HDLC including Tremé, Esplanade Ridge and the Garden District.

- D. National Register district boundaries and designation report.

Elliott Perkins presented the 2010 FEMA survey of Parkview and Mid City. The staff stated that the national register boundaries reflect the work of the National Park Service effort to create a cohesive district that reflects the period of significance for Mid City and Parkview and their neighborhood boundaries. The Staff stated that the Study Committee could adopt the boundaries of the National Register district or shift them as they deemed necessary. The staff noted that the survey does not reflect the demolition and new construction that occurred for the LSU and VA hospital complexes. It was noted that the Study Committee would need to evaluate whether or not to include these portions of the National Register district into the local historic district. Elliott Perkins noted that the 2010 Historic Mid-City Study Report made several suggestions for possible local historic Districts. It was agreed that the staff would scan the report and make it available to the public and Committee members via PDF or on the website.

- E. FEMA SURVEY

Elliott Perkins presented the FEMA survey in greater detail. There was a discussion about the ratings and the difference between contributing and non-contributing buildings. The staff showed views of streetscape via google earth. The group discussed the portion of land excluded along the industrial spine between the two National Register Districts and whether or not to include that portion in the local historic district.



Rachel Lyons asked for information regarding the transition from NCDAC to Local Historic Districts. The staff explained that the application to the NCDAC must go to the NCDAC and then be voted upon by the City Council. The City Council and Administration agreed that the NOHDLC is better suited to process these demolition requests. The Administration and City Council agreed that the current National Register Historic District boundaries are logical for the creation of demolition review only districts for neighborhoods currently not under the jurisdiction of the HDLC.

Emily Shaya inquired if there was funding for additional staff to handle additional historic districts. Elliott Perkins Stated that the existing staffing could likely handle the additional load of demolition review only partial control districts, but additional jurisdiction would require additional staffing.

Quinn Breland inquired about the number of demolition requests experienced by Mid City and Parkview. The staff explained that the number was far lower than requests Uptown, but that the fact that the Mid City Neighborhood Organization is very proactive in opposing demolitions may keep people from considering demolition as an option.

Jennifer Farwell mentioned that the Study Committee could suggest that Canal Street be made a full control area with the rest of Mid-City remaining a partial control district. She stated that many in the Mid-City area did not want a full control district.

Rachel Lyons stated that she felt strongly that the industrial corridor currently not included in the National Register District was an important part of the neighborhood and its character. Eleanor Burke stated that the members would need to evaluate whether or not they wanted demolition review over contemporary warehouse structures.

At this time, the Staff opened the meeting up to public comment. Elizabeth Boudreaux, a longtime resident of Parkview stated that the Committee did not have representation from the Parkview neighborhood and inquired how the Study Committee members were selected. Jennifer Farwell stated that MCNO had submitted a list of people to the Mayor's Office of Governmental Affairs but that the gentlemen on the list for Parkview declined the appointment. Ms. Boudreaux also stated her distress that there was insufficient notice of the meeting. She stated that there were many neighbors who were against becoming an HDLC district. She stated that she felt all new local districts should go to a vote of the people. The staff explained that the public notice requirements were met and that the public notice appeared on the City's website, City Calendar and was distributed to the HDLC Agenda distribution list. The staff will include Mrs. Boudreaux on the agenda distribution list so that she will receive all future notices for the Committee meetings.

At this time, the staff recommended that the Committee consider scheduling options for the next meeting. Emily Shaya agreed to coordinate the next meeting time and work with Jennifer Farwell to determine the location.

There being no further business to discuss, Quinn Breland made a motion to adjourn. The motion, seconded by Jennifer Farwell, passed unanimously.